

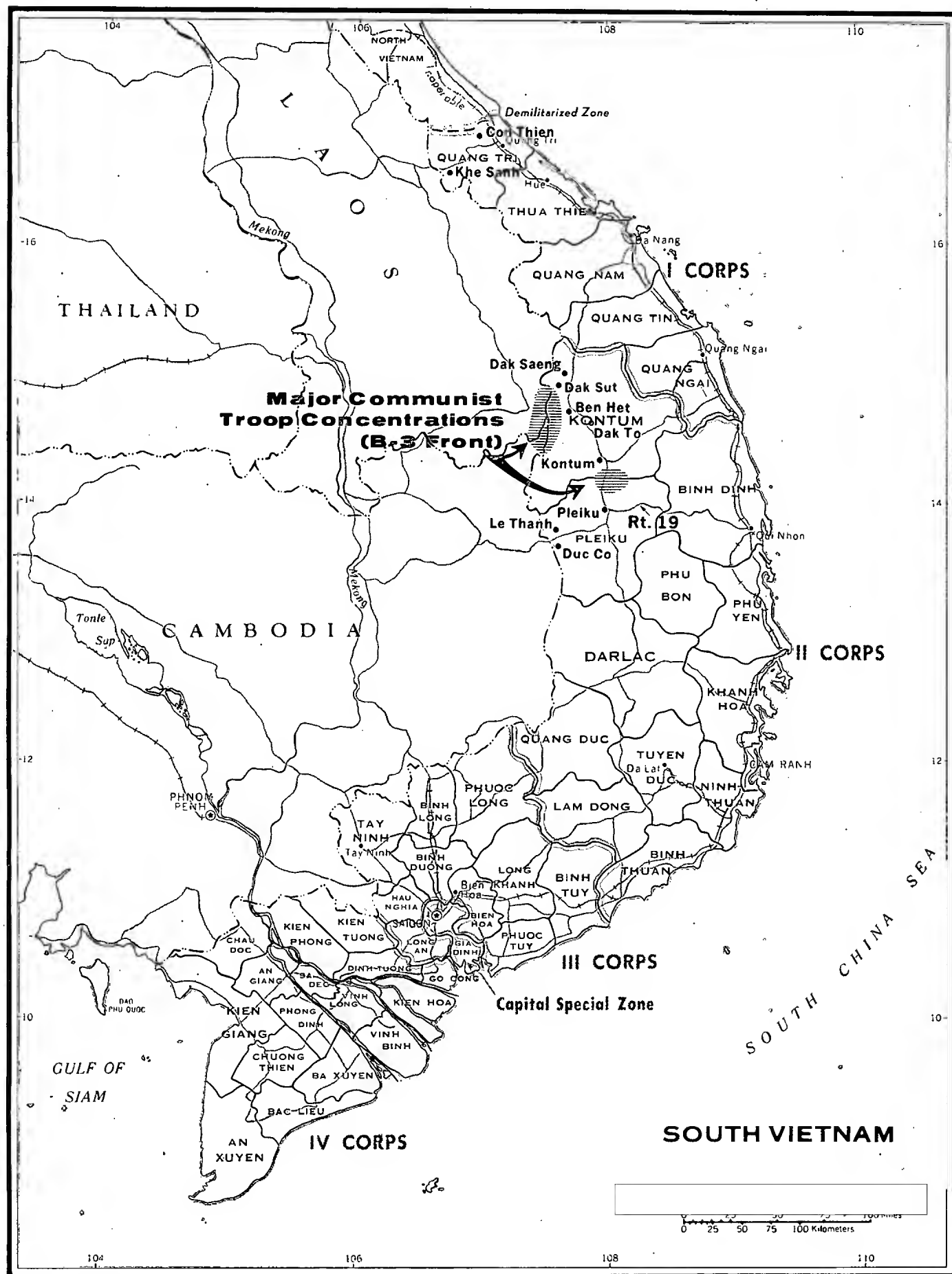


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
20 JANUARY 1968

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1. South Vietnam

The attack on Pleiku airbase yesterday is one of many signs pointing toward an early enemy offensive in the western highlands.

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The Communists consider Kontum and Pleiku as a single command, the "B-3 Front." There are two major troop concentrations involving at least five North Vietnamese infantry regiments plus extensive combat support units.

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There have been several bomb incidents in Danang this week and leaflets have been scattered about town warning the population to stay away from Americans. US officials in Danang have taken precautions.

2. Guatemala

Security forces are said to have made several hundred arrests in Guatemala City in an effort to find the Communist terrorists. The capital has been relatively quiet for the past two days. In spite of strong security precautions the city remains tense, and Communist or right-wing extremists could carry out further assassinations at any time.

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3. Bolivia - Cuba

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4. Soviet Union

Ambassador Thompson understands that Kosygin's trip to India will not come off next week on schedule. A meeting of the Soviet Central Committee which is supposed to begin next Thursday to take up economic problems is probably the reason for delay.

5. Italy

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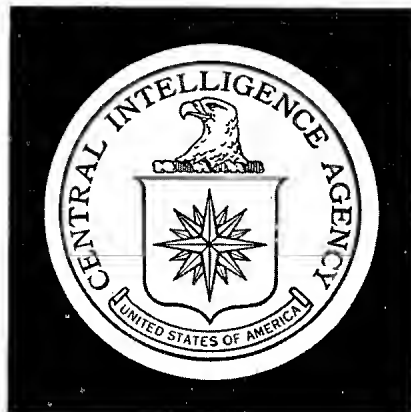
6. Denmark

For the first time in some fifteen years, the non-Socialist parties see a good chance of toppling Prime Minister Krag's Social Democrats in special elections on Tuesday. Denmark's economic problems have dominated the election campaign; foreign policy and defense issues have remained in the background.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnam on San Antonio Formula: Hanoi has not commented specifically on President Johnson's State of the Union address, but on 18 January it broadcast a recent article again rejecting the President's San Antonio formula as an unacceptable method of getting talks started.

The article is from the 15 January issue of the Vietnam Courier, a magazine Hanoi puts out in English and French for international consumption. It offered an unusually detailed critique of the US position. It said the San Antonio speech was unacceptable because it called only for a "conditional cessation" of the bombing. The article claimed there had been no evolution in the US position on negotiations since the President's Baltimore speech in April 1965. The San Antonio formulation, it said, specified three prerequisites for the US to end the air and naval bombardment, and claimed that this was a challenge to common sense. The US, it said, does not have a right "to set conditions" for the cessation of the bombing.

The article also repeated the recent "will talk" statement of Foreign Minister Trinh and said that this answered the question of what Hanoi would do if the bombing stopped.

Mai Van Bo's 16 January elaboration of Trinh's "will talk" bit is still being stressed by Hanoi. The Los Angeles Times correspondent in Hong Kong and Harrison Salisbury both were referred to the Bo statement by Hanoi in response to their queries about clarification of Trinh's formula.

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Red Cross Visit Turned Down: Hanoi has informed the International Red Cross that it will not be able to accept the visit of Andre Durand, the IRC's delegate in Phnom Penh. Durand has been trying to get to Hanoi for some time in an attempt to secure Geneva Convention coverage for US prisoners in North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese used their standard excuse for rejecting the visit-- "intensification of the war."

II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing of significance to report.

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